

## Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company\_HersheySoutheast\_Attachment Letter E\_1

### Technical capability statement

#### Broadband Experience

Hershey Cooperative Telephone has been providing service in the state of Nebraska for more than 60 years. Hershey Telephone has a long history of providing quality voice grade services and access to long distance services. Hershey Telephone first began placing fiber optic plant into service in 1994. In 1996 Hershey Telephone built a fiber to the node local access plant that would be capable of providing high speed DSL data service to every subscriber within the Hershey Exchange. In 1997 the residents of Hershey were able to purchase dial-up access to the internet through a cooperative effort between NetQuest of North Platte and Hershey Coop Telephone. In 1999 Hershey and NetQuest dissolved their partnership and Hershey Telephone began offering Dial-up to the residents of Hershey. In 2002 Hershey began offering high speed DSL internet access. Hershey began its fiber to the home network build in 2009 completing the build within the village of Hershey early 2010. Since that time Hershey has continued to build FTTH to the rural residents of the Hershey exchange. At this time nearly 95% of the residents of the Hershey exchange have access to a fiber optic connection to serve their communications needs.

As Hershey Telephone built the network within the Hershey exchange, residents in rural Lincoln County living outside of our exchange began to ask how they could receive our services. This led to a fixed wireless service being built and offered to these residents. The fixed wireless service is offered in rural areas surrounding North Platte. This service is supplied by a subsidiary of Hershey Telephone. The Fixed wireless service has served the need of the people for nearly a decade. Due to rapid growth in bandwidth consumption Hershey believes that a fiber optic service to these residents is the only choice for a long-term solution to meet to meet their needs. Hershey has five dedicated employees with a combined 96 years of communications experience.